



# The Treaty Today

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**Key Question:** How does the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo affect us today?

**Relevance to Student Knowledge:** Understand how historic documents influence their lives.

**Student Learning Objectives:** Students will read the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo and understand how the Treaty effects us today.

## Materials Included

- Full Version **Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo**
- Master student worksheet **The Treaty Today**
- Teacher background information on U.S.-Mexican War and Battle of Palo Alto

## Teacher-Supplied Materials

- Full Version of the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo
- Copies of the treaty
- Copies of student worksheet **The Treaty Today**
- Dictionaries

## Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills

*History:* 7.4 (A,B) Identify individuals, events, and issues during the Mexican War and the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo

*Social Studies Skills:* 7.22 (A) Use primary sources, such as interviews

*Social Studies Skills:* 7.21 (E) Identify the elements of frame of reference that influenced the participants in an event

*Language Arts:* 7.10(F) Determine a text's main ideas and how those ideas are supported with details

**BACKGROUND:** On February 2, 1848, the United States and Mexico signed the treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo. In the Treaty, Mexico agreed to surrender all claims to Texas and accept the Rio Grande as the boundary of that state. Mexico also agreed to sell its New Mexico and Upper California territories to the United States at a price of \$15 million. The treaty effectively halved the size of Mexico and doubled the territory of the United States.

This territorial exchange had long-term effects on both nations. The war and treaty extended the United States to the Pacific Ocean, and provided a bounty of ports, minerals, and natural resources for a growing country. The abundance of lands also produced debates about extending slavery into the West, a dispute that would help spark a nation-defining civil war. In Mexico, the loss of battles and territories was a national trauma. As political and military leaders challenged each other on the best way to revive their troubled country, Mexico also descended into a long period of turmoil, civil war, and foreign intervention. But the war also inspired new leaders who were determined to avoid additional humiliation for their country. The new generation eventually united Mexico, forced out foreign invaders, and established the foundations of a modern state.

Perhaps the most enduring effect of the war, however, is on U.S.-Mexican relations. While the war is recalled with passion south of the border, it is often overlooked to the north. And, although the two countries have developed strong bonds and friendly ties since 1848, these neighbors continue to struggle with distrust and misunderstandings created by the war, its effects, and the differing approaches to remembering the conflict.

## MANAGEMENT

1. Download the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo from [http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th\\_century/guadhida.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/guadhida.asp)
2. Photocopy at least 20 copies of the Treaty.
3. Copy the student worksheet **The Treaty Today**

**Vocabulary – See Discovery.**

## LESSON

### Introduction

1. Divide students into two groups. Have each group stand on one side of the classroom.
2. Tell students they are responsible for keeping that side of the classroom clean and will be punished if it's dirty. However, they must sit in a desk on the other side (i.e., not on their side).
3. Tell students they have five minutes to negotiate how to allow the other students to sit in their side of the classroom.

### Discovery

1. Tell students: After the War, the United States and Mexico signed a treaty called the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo. We will read this treaty and put it in our own words
2. Put students into 20 groups. (**Option:** Work as a class.)
3. Give each group a copy of the Treaty, the student worksheet **The Treaty Today**, and a dictionary.
4. Assign each group an article of the Treaty. (Note that although there are 23 articles, Article #10 was deleted.)
5. Tell students to read the Articles and put them in their own words.
6. Tell students to look up any words they don't know and to use their creativity.
7. Tell students to write if their Article(s) still applies and if the U.S. and Mexico still observe the Article(s) today.

## LESSON

### Wrap- up Activities

1. Have each group share their Article(s) with the class.
2. Have a class discussion based on the key question: How does the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo affect us today?

### **Extensions:**

1. Imagine that the U.S. and Mexico were to update the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo. Rewrite your Article(s) as you think it should be written today.
2. Find a newspaper article that relates to your Article(s). Create a display.

GROUP #	ARTICLE(S) #	GROUP #	ARTICLE(S) #
1	Introduction 1 & 2	11	13 & 14
2	3	12	15
3	4	13	16 & 17
4	5	14	18
5	6	15	19 Parts 1-3
6	7	16	19 Parts 4-6
7	8	17	20 & 21
8	9	18	22 Part 1
9	11	19	22 Part 2
10	12	20	23



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Palo Alto Battlefield  
National Historic Site  
1623 Central Blvd., Rm. 213  
Brownsville, TX 78520

Phone  
956-541-2785

E-mail  
[paal\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:paal_interpretation@nps.gov)

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special places saved by the American people  
so that all may experience our heritage.



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## TREATY OF GUADALUPE-HIDALGO TODAY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



ARTICLE	In My Own Words	Is this observed today? How do you know?
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		



## TREATY OF GUADALUPE-HIDALGO TODAY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



ARTICLE	In My Own Words	Is this observed today? How do you know?
6		
7		
8		
9		
11		



## TREATY OF GUADALUPE-HIDALGO TODAY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



ARTICLE	In My Own Words	Is this observed today? How do you know?
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		



## TREATY OF GUADALUPE-HIDALGO TODAY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



ARTICLE	In My Own Words	Is this observed today? How do you know?
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		



## TREATY OF GUADALUPE-HIDALGO TODAY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



ARTICLE	In My Own Words	Is this observed today? How do you know?
22		
23		





## TREATY OF GUADALUPE-HIDALGO TODAY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



ARTICLE	In My Own Words	Is this observed today? How do you know?
1	Universal peace between U.S. & Mexico	
2	Appoint U.S. and Mexican commissioners to restore political, administrative, and judicial order between the countries	
3	Stop blockade of Mexican ports Keep records of duties on imports and exports U.S. troops to leave Mexico city within one month	
4	Restore Mexican property taken during War All U.S. troops to leave Mexico within 3 months but not during sickly season (May 1 – November 1); Start again in healthy season POWs on both sides returned to their country U.S. to free Mexicans held by Native Americans	
5	Boundary is middle (deepest channel) of Rio Grande Details on the boundary Each country to appoint a Commissioner & Surveyor to mark boundary from the Port of San Diego to mouth of Rio Grande This boundary shall be religiously respected by the U.S. and Mexico. No change will be made without the free consent of both countries.	



## TREATY OF GUADALUPE-HIDALGO TODAY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



ARTICLE	In My Own Words	Is this observed today? How do you know?
6	U.S. citizens can travel in the Gulf of CA and the Colorado River Both the U.S. and MX must agree on any roads built on either side of the Gila.	
7	The Gila and Rio Grande can be used by both U.S. and Mexican boats and people. Neither country can build anything to restrict use of these rivers without consent of other country.	
8	Mexicans living in areas that belonged to Mexico but now part of the U.S. can continue to live there or can move to Mexico and still keep their property without being taxed. Mexicans who stay have one year to decide to be either Mexican or U.S. citizens. If they don't decide, they automatically become U.S. citizens. Mexicans living in this area can keep their property.	
9	Mexicans living in areas that belonged to Mexico but are now part of the U.S. who become U.S. citizens will have all rights of U.S. citizens, including liberty, property, and freedom of religion.	
11	The U.S. will control Native American tribes. U.S. citizens may not buy Mexicans or their property which was stolen by Native Americans. Any Mexicans rescued from Native Americans will be returned to Mexico. The U.S. will help Native Americans find new homes.	



## TREATY OF GUADALUPE-HIDALGO TODAY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



ARTICLE	In My Own Words	Is this observed today? How do you know?
12	The U.S. will pay Mexico \$15 million. After this treaty is ratified, the U.S. will pay \$3 million in gold or silver Mexican coins in Mexico City. The \$12 million will be paid at the same place with the same coin in annual installments with 6% interest/year.	
13	The U.S. will pay all Mexican debts.	
14	The U.S. will release Mexico from paying any debts owed to U.S. citizens.	
15	Debts owed from Mexico to U.S. citizens to be paid by the U.S. will not exceed \$3.25 million. The U.S. is responsible for validating and paying these claims. If the U.S. needs to check any facts, it may use Mexican books, records, and documents.	
16	Each country has the right to protect any point within its own country for security reasons.	



## TREATY OF GUADALUPE-HIDALGO TODAY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



ARTICLE	In My Own Words	Is this observed today? How do you know?
17	The Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation, which was signed in 1831, is good for eight years. After eight years, it can be renewed.	
18	All supplies for U.S. troops in Mexico will not be taxed	
19	Rules on imports into Mexico while Mexico is still occupied by U.S. troops	
20	Rules on commerce	
21	If there any disagreements between U.S. and Mexico to the Treaty or anything political or commercial, the two countries will settle the differences and preserve the state of peace and friendship. If they don't agree they will not go to war but appoint Commissioners to negotiate.	



## TREATY OF GUADALUPE-HIDALGO TODAY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



ARTICLE	In My Own Words	Is this observed today? How do you know?
22	<p>If the two countries go to war, they will observe the following rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Merchants from one country living in the other may collect their debts and leave without any problems</li><li>○ Women, children, and men who are not in the military will be left alone. Their houses and possession will also be left alone.</li><li>○ The military of the other country can buy goods from anyone in that country</li><li>○ Churches, hospitals, schools, colleges, libraries, and charities will be respected</li><li>○ Rules on POWs as according to established laws of war, including: Housing, Paroles, Escapees, Rations</li><li>○ Each country will have a Commissary of prisoners</li><li>○ Laws regarding prisoners must be sacredly observed</li></ul>	
23	<p>The Treaty will be ratified by the U.S. and Mexican President</p>	